

Long-Term Care Facilities



Resident's Bill of Rights

Department of Social Services
Adult Services & Aging: Ombudsman Program

Resident's Rights in Long-Term Care Facilities

South Dakota Department of Health
Administrative Rules Chapter 44:04:17

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|-------------------|---|
| Section 1 | Application of resident's rights |
| Section 2 | Facility to inform residents of their rights |
| Section 3 | Facility to provide information on available services |
| Section 4 | Notification when resident's condition changes |
| Section 5 | Notification of change in room assignment or rights |
| Section 6 | Right to manage financial affairs |
| Section 7 | Choice in care planning |
| Section 8 | Privacy and confidentiality |
| Section 9 | Quality of life |
| Section 10 | Grievances |
| Section 11 | Availability of survey results |
| Section 12 | Right to refuse to perform services |
| Section 13 | Self-administration of drugs |
| Section 14 | Admission, transfer & discharge policies |

When you leave your home to live in a long-term care facility, you take with you all of the rights you have as a citizen of South Dakota and as a citizen of the United States. When you enter a long-term care facility, you must be treated as an individual with respect, dignity and consideration.

This booklet is intended to assist you in knowing what your rights are and how they pertain to your stay in a long-term care facility. The resident's rights outlined in this booklet have been paraphrased in more understandable language from the SD Department of Health's Administrative Rules Chapter 44:04:17.



Section 1

Long-term care facilities must comply with this chapter.

A long-term care facility must establish policies consistent with this chapter to protect and promote the rights of each resident.



Section 2

A long-term care facility must inform you of your rights.

A long-term care facility must inform you both orally and in writing of your rights. The facility must also explain the rules regarding your conduct and responsibilities while living there. This information must be given to you before or when you are admitted and during your stay. Proof that the information was given to you and any changes must be acknowledged in writing. The information must contain the following:

1. You have all of the rights given to you as a resident of the long-term care facility and as a citizen of the United States.
2. You have the right to be free of interference, discrimination and punishment from the long-term care facility when exercising your rights.
3. You have the right to have a person appointed to act on your behalf. Should you be declared incompetent or incapacitated, your rights will be

exercised by a person appointed under state law to act on your behalf. If you are not incompetent or incapacitated, your rights may be exercised by the legal representative recognized under state law. The long-term care facility must have the appointed person's address and phone number.

4. You have the right to your records. You may purchase photocopies of your records, and the cost cannot exceed community standards for photocopying. The long-term care facility must provide the photocopies within two working days after your request.
5. You have the right to be fully informed of your health status and medical problems.
6. You have the right to refuse treatment or participation in experimental research. The long-term care facility must still provide you with necessary medical services and treatment. If you refuse treatment, you must be informed of the results plus any available alternatives.
7. You have the right to formulate a durable power of attorney for health care as provided in SDCL chapter 59-7 and a living will declaration as provided in SDCL chapter 34-12D.
8. You have the right to receive visitors. Visiting hours and policies must permit and encourage visits from your friends and relatives.

Section 3

A long-term care facility must provide information about available services.

A long-term care facility must provide you with the following information in writing:

1. A list of services available at the long-term care facility and all costs.
2. A description of how a resident can protect personal funds, including your right to apply for Medicaid.
3. A list of client advocate names, addresses and telephone numbers. Client advocates are agencies responsible for the protection and advocacy of patients and residents. For residents of long-term care facilities, the Ombudsman Program is the client advocate.
4. A description of how to file a complaint with the Department of Health concerning abuse, neglect and the misuse of your property.
5. A description of how you can contact your physician, including the physician's name and specialty.
6. A description of how you can apply for and use Medicare and Medicaid benefits, plus the addresses and phone numbers of the nearest Social Services and Social Security offices.

7. A description of the bed-hold policy indicating the length of time your bed will be held, policies regarding bed-hold and your readmission rights.

A signed and dated admission agreement between you or your legal representative and the long-term care facility must include this entire section. The agreement must be completed before or at the time of admission and before you have made a commitment for payment. The agreement may not include unclear or misleading information and may not be in conflict with this chapter. The agreement must be printed so you can read it. If it exceeds three pages, it must contain a table of contents or an index of sections. You must be provided with any changes.

Section 4

A long-term care facility must notify you when your condition changes. A facility must inform you, consult with your physician and, if known, notify your legal representative or interested family member when any of the following occurs:

1. You were injured in an accident and may potentially require a physician.
2. Your physical, mental or psychosocial status changes significantly.
3. Your treatment needs altered significantly.
4. The facility decides to transfer or discharge you.

Section 5

A long-term care facility must notify you about changes in your room assignment or rights. A facility must promptly notify you and, if known, your legal representative or interested family member when there has been a change in your room or roommate assignment or your rights.

Section 6

You have the right to manage your personal financial affairs. A long-term care facility may not require residents to deposit their personal funds with the facility. If you choose to deposit funds with the facility and give written authorization, the facility must hold the funds in accordance with SDCL 34-12-15.1 to 34-12-15.10, inclusive.

Section 7

You can help plan your care. You may choose a personal attending physician. You also have the right to be informed in advance about care and treatment and of any changes that may affect your well-being. Unless you are incompetent or otherwise found to be incapacitated under state law, you may participate in planning care and treatment, or changes in care or treatment.



Cross-References:

- Right to choose own physician unimpaired by public health programs – Misdemeanor – SDCL 34-1-20.
- Rights of authorized person as incapacitated person – SDCL 34-12C-6.
- Liability of health care provider – Liability of authorized decision maker – SDCL 34-12C-7.

Section 8

You have the right to privacy and confidentiality in a long-term care facility. This includes your accommodations, medical treatment, written and telephone communications, personal care, visits and meetings with family and resident groups. Long-term care facilities are not required to provide a private room for each resident. A facility must permit you to:

1. Send and receive unopened mail and purchase stationery, postage and writing implements.
2. Use a telephone without being overheard.
3. Visit your spouse, if you are married. If you and your spouse live in the same long-term care facility, you have a right to share the same room, if both of you agree to it.
4. Close your door and require others to knock before entering, except in an emergency.

5. Have only authorized staff present during treatment or activities of personal hygiene.
6. Retire and rise when you wish, as long as you do not disturb other residents.
7. Meet with people in a private place within the long-term care facility.
8. Participate in social, religious and community activities that do not interfere with the rights of other residents.
9. Approve or refuse the release of your personal and medical records to anyone outside the long-term care facility, except when you are transferred to another facility or when the release of your records are required by law. With your permission, a facility must allow the state ombudsman or a representative of the Ombudsman Program access to your medical records.

Section 9

You are entitled to quality of life. A facility must provide care and an environment that contributes to your quality of life including:

1. A safe, clean, comfortable and home-like environment.
2. Maintenance or enhancement of your ability to preserve individuality, exercise self-determination and control every day physical needs.

3. Freedom from physical or chemical restraints used for purposes of discipline or convenience.
4. Freedom from theft of personal property; verbal, sexual, physical or mental abuse; and involuntary seclusion, neglect or exploitation imposed by anyone.
5. Use of your personal possessions, including furnishings and clothing, as space permits, unless to do so would infringe upon the rights, health and safety of other residents.

Section 10

You may voice grievances without discrimination or reprisal.

Your grievance may be in writing or oral and may relate to treatment, behavior of other residents or infringement of your rights. A long-term care



facility must adopt a grievance process and make the process known to you and your immediate family.

The grievance process must include the facility's efforts to resolve the grievance, documentation of the grievance, names of the people involved, nature of the matter and the date.

Section 11

You may examine the Department of Health's most recent survey results of your facility and any plan of correction in effect.

A facility must make this information available to residents plus the survey conducted by the US

Department of Health and Human Services and any plans of correction in effect, if applicable. You may request this information from client advocates and be allowed to contact these agencies.



Section 12

You have the right to refuse to perform services.

You may refuse to perform services, unless you agreed to otherwise in your plan of care. You may perform services for the facility when the following conditions are met:

1. The plan of care includes documentation of the need or desire for work.
2. The nature of the services performed is specified, including whether the services are voluntary or paid.
3. Compensation for paid services is at or above prevailing rates.
4. You agree to the work arrangement.

Section 13

Self-administration of drugs. A resident may self-administer drugs if the physician, registered nurse, pharmacist and social worker or designee have determined the practice to be safe. The determination must state whether the resident or the nursing staff is responsible for storage of the drug and documentation of its administration in accordance with chapter 44:04:08.

Section 14

Admission, transfer, and discharge policies. A long-term care facility must establish and maintain policies and practices for admission, discharge and transfer of residents which prohibit discrimination based upon payment source and which are made known to residents at or before the time of admission. The policies and practices must include:

1. You may remain in the long-term care facility and not be transferred or discharged unless: your needs and welfare cannot be met by the facility, you no longer need the services, you endanger the safety or health of others, you have failed to pay for allowable billed services as agreed to, or the facility ceases to operate.
2. The long-term care facility must notify you and a family member or client advocate in writing at least 30 days before the transfer or discharge, unless a change in your health requires immediate transfer or discharge or you have not

resided in the facility for 30 days. The contents of the notice must include the following: the reason for transfer or discharge; the effective date of transfer or discharge; the location to which the resident is transferred or discharged; and the name, address and telephone number of the state long-term care ombudsman.

3. Conditions under which you may request or refuse transfer within the facility.
4. A description of how you may appeal a decision by the facility to transfer or discharge you.

In South Dakota, a resident or legal representative may appeal a facility's decision to transfer the resident by contacting:

Office of Administrative Hearings
700 Governors Drive
Pierre, S.D. 57501-2291
(605) 773-6851
www.state.sd.us/social/admnhearings

A resident or legal representative may also receive assistance from the Ombudsman Program by contacting:

Adult Services & Aging/State Ombudsman
700 Governors Drive
Pierre, S.D. 57501-2291
(605) 773-3656 or 1-866-854-5465
www.state.sd.us/social/asa

ASA Local & District Offices

Aberdeen	605-626-3145
Belle Fourche	605-892-2731
Brookings	605-688-4330
Chamberlain	605-734-4500
Deadwood	605-578-2402
Hot Springs	605-745-5100
Huron	605-353-7112
Lake Andes	605-487-7607
Madison	605-256-5683
Martin	605-685-6521
Mission	605-856-4431
Mitchell	605-995-8000
Mobridge	605-845-2922
Olivet	605-387-4219
Pierre	605-773-3521
Pine Ridge	605-867-5865
Rapid City	605-355-3588
Redfield	605-472-4220
Sioux Falls	605-367-5400
Sisseton	605-698-7673
Sturgis	605-347-2588
Vermillion	605-677-6800
Watertown	605-882-5003
Winner	605-842-0400
Yankton	605-668-3030

The South Dakota Department of Health's Administrative Rules Chapter 44:04:17 contains the requirements for resident's rights in the state's long-term care facilities. These rights originate from the Federal Medicare/Medicaid Requirements (42 CFR) resident's rights in long-term care facilities.



DSS Nondiscrimination Policy:

It is the policy of the Department of Social Services (DSS) to make sure that applications for program benefits and services are made available to everyone and that program benefits are granted to all who meet eligibility standards. DSS staff, programs and policies must not discriminate against clients or applicants for services because of race, color, sex, age, disability, religion and national origin. DSS must also provide fair and equal access to all of its programs and services for people with disabilities; this includes both physical access to buildings and access to programs and services. To file a complaint of discrimination write: PMB0141-1, DSS Human Resource Manager, 500 East Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501-5070 or call: (605) 773-6941. If you have a question regarding program services, please contact your nearest DSS office.

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